

II. CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims of the application.

1-20. (Cancelled).

21. (Currently amended) A mounting system for a pellicle comprising:

a mounting structure for coupling a pellicle to a mask, wherein a sealed interior portion is formed between the pellicle, the mask and the mounting structure;

a pressure regulator in communication with the sealed interior portion to control a pressure in the interior portion, wherein the pressure regulator is coupled to a device for measuring the pressure in the interior portion; and

a velocity sensor operatively coupled to the pressure regulator to determine the velocity of the pellicle, wherein ~~the~~ a pressure difference between the interior portion and an exterior environment is controlled by the pressure regulator to maintain a flat surface on the pellicle based on a reading from the velocity sensor.

22. (Previously presented) The mounting system of claim 21, further comprising a source of high pressure gas coupled to the pressure regulator, and a source of low pressure gas coupled to the pressure regulator.

23. (Previously presented) The mounting system of claim 22, wherein one of the sources of pressure gas is the exterior environment.

24. (Previously presented) The mounting system of claim 21, further comprising a pressure sensor operatively coupled to the pressure regulator for detecting a pressure of the interior portion.

25. (Previously presented) The mounting system of claim 21, further comprising a position sensor operatively coupled to the pressure regulator to determine the position of the pellicle; wherein the pressure difference is controlled by the pressure regulator to maintain a flat surface on the pellicle based on a reading from the position sensor.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Previously presented) The mounting system of claim 21, further comprising a calibrated leak from the interior portion to an exterior environment.

28. (Previously presented) The mounting system of claim 21, further comprising an aerodynamic fairing adjacent the mounting structure.

29. (Previously presented) The mounting system of claim 21, wherein the pressure regulator communicates with the sealed interior portion through a port in the mounting structure.

30. (Currently Amended) A pellicle mounting system for a mask, the mounting system comprising:

an aerodynamic fairing adjacent the mask, the fairing having a portion that is co-planar with the pellicle and a curved taper extending from the portion to a stage to reduce aerodynamic drag on the pellicle;

a mounting structure for coupling the pellicle to the mask, wherein a sealed interior portion is formed between the pellicle, the mask and the mounting structure;

a pressure regulator to adjust a pressure in the interior portion; and

a position sensor operatively coupled to the pressure regulator to determine the position of the pellicle.

wherein a pressure difference between the interior portion and an exterior environment is controlled by the pressure regulator to maintain a flat surface on the pellicle based on a reading from the position sensor.

31-32. (Cancelled)

33. (Currently Amended) The mounting system of claim ~~30~~³¹, further comprising a velocity sensor operatively coupled to the pressure regulator to determine the velocity of the pellicle;

~~wherein the pressure difference is controlled by the pressure regulator to maintain a flat surface on the pellicle based on a reading from the velocity sensor.~~

34-40. (Cancelled)